

MINUTES  
KICKAPOO RESERVE MANAGEMENT BOARD  
KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE VISITOR CENTER - DECK  
July 16, 2020

- I. 7:00 PM Meeting called to order by Vice-Chair Richard Wallin.
- Board members in attendance: Richard Wallin, Paul Hayes, Reggie Nelson, Susan Cushing, Dave Maxwell, Travis Downing, A.J. Mann, Julie Hoel, Tina Brown; On the phone: Bill Quackenbush. Staff present: Marcy West, Jason Leis, Jonel Kiesau, Erica Cronk. Public: Brad Steinmetz, Local citizen; Lonnie Muller, Episcopo News; Ritchie Brown; Gary and Rhonda Parr, neighboring landowners; and Jeff Bernardy, Local citizen representing Steve and Marilyn Rogers.
  - Motion by Maxwell/Cushing to approve the agenda. Unanimous.
  - Downing/Maxwell motion to approve May 21, 2020 minutes & June 18, 2020 field trip notes with correction noted on May 21 minutes - Julie Hoel listed as attending in person and on phone; attended in person. Motion carries.
  - Compliance with open meeting law: West – Yes, it has been posted in compliance with State law.
  - Introductions of KRMB, staff and audience.
- II. Public Input –
- Request for access agreement to move cattle as needed at Rodgers Road. Two agreements at this location in the past. Approximately seventy yards of Reserve/State property. Parr's request to unload cattle in Spring and pick up in Fall, basically twice a year unless needing to access an injured cow; approximately fifteen cattle. Would be using a cattle trailer to transport. Hayes suggests agreement consistent with ag lease term of six years. Maxwell/Hayes motion to allow request pending written agreement and six-year term limit. Motion carries. West will draft agreement and send to Parr's.
  - Other: none.
- III. Discussion and recommendations considering pandemic.
- River access sites – West: weekends incredibly busy at river landings. Relatively few issues considering number of users; a few underage and one litter citation have been issued. People safer outdoors but social distancing still an issue. Downing: busiest the river has been in over a decade. West: will continue to enforce as best we can.
  - Campsites – West: received public comment river access campsites are difficult to get out at and steep banks. Maxwell agrees river sites are challenging and suggests we communicate that better to users. In addition, Willow Camp has had issues with human waste from tent campers. West requests modifying license agreement and making Willow Camp to be self-contained units only and clearly identify to Willow campers the dump station in La Farge.
  - Enforcement – Leis: looking to hire new officer; authority from State to hire as needed. Property busier than ever - need more coverage, especially on weekends. Leis stepping up to fill vacant shifts.
  - Events – West: recommendation to KRMB to postpone Dam Challenge until 2021 and Winter Fest until 2022. Limited staff, pandemic surge and volunteers are all concerns. Brown/Cushing motion to cancel Dam Challenge 2020 and Winter Fest 2021. 8:2 approved; motion carries. Driftless Dialogue will continue this fall and into Spring 2021. Focus will be outdoors presentations during the nice weather months and incorporating hikes. Attendees would need to pre-register, social distance, and wear masks.
  - Exhibit Upgrade fundraising campaign – West met with Vernon Communications via Zoom on July 15 and received \$25,000 pledge towards campaign; a few other donations coming in as well. Foundations set up to donate despite pandemic; West proposed we restart campaign. To date have raised over \$200,000 towards \$600,000+ goal.

#### IV. Budget Report -

- West - [handout]. Review FY20 which ended June 30, 2020. Not all transfers between appropriations has taken place yet. 16100 appropriation will be spent down; will use 16100 balance to cover negative amount in 12100 (carry-over) appropriation. West/Cronk will continue to work with DOA to close out FY20. Expecting furloughs and 5% budget reduction for FY22 to be submitted in September. West indicated revenue from permits/annual passes up since pandemic however overall revenue loss of approximately \$35,000 to date since Pandemic began mid-March from Education/Event programs.

#### V. Project Updates.

- Forest Charter School – Kiesau: DPI grant awarded in June. Last month was dedicated to DPI online seminars and webinars. Jonel Kiesau, Robin Hosemann, Meghan Gustafson and Julia Buckingham spear heading governance board at this point. Looking to hire a lead teacher. First year of five-year grant is planning. Doors to school would open fall of 2021 with thirty children max and would grow from there each year. Once school reaches full capacity will generate approximately \$55,000 in revenue for KVR Education Program. Introducing a whole new generation of parents and children to outdoors and KVR. Education building also discussed. Building will be primarily used by Education groups; goal being to make the space versatile and adaptable.
- Timber Harvest – Leis: Thomas Wyse contract to mark and bid. Wyse temporarily unable to complete work but is back. Plan to start marking trees again next week. Leis reported the logger will be back to repair hiking trail by campsite KK per contract damaged during logging.
- Trails – Leis: crew busy clearing downed trees off trails. Hay Valley trail bridge repair being planned. One solution is putting in boardwalk like on Cut-Off Trail; expensive project and long stretch of trail but holds up well and would not require a permit. Other option is trail re-route. West: also needing to get contractor back in to fix section of Old Hwy 131 trail below Rockton that consistently needs mud scraped off.
- Other – West: still looking for nominations for the vacant KRMB seat to replace Ron Johnson. West also shared the Old Hwy 131 Auto-Tour on July 4<sup>th</sup> well attended – 243 cars came through between noon-4pm. Also, Friends of KVR Garden Walk held July 10 and 11 was great event. Julie Hoel organized walk which raised about \$2,000 in revenue.
- Calls for Suggestions of Future Agenda Items – none.
- Next KRMB meeting September 17, 2020.

Quackenbush/Downing motion to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned 8:08PM.

Recorded by:  
Erica Cronk, Executive Assistant